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Claims

What is claimed is:

Sub A1

1. A base for shipping and supporting an appliance, comprising:
a frame having four sides, each side adapted to extend along the four sides of an appliance with the relatively outer peripheral edge portions of the base positioned adjacent the bottom surfaces of the appliance;
the outer peripheral edge of the base being recessed relative to inner portions of the base along at least one side thereof, the recess of the outer edge along the at least one side creating a gap between the base and adjacent portions of the appliance.

2. A base as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer peripheral edge of each of the sides of the frame is recessed relative to the inner portion of the base along the corresponding side, creating a gap between the base and the adjacent portions of the appliance along each side thereof.

3. A base as claimed in claim 2 further comprising:
one or more sockets defining open ended wells in the frame for receipt and engagement of the feet of the appliance.

Sub A2

4. A base as claimed in claim 3, wherein the one or more sockets comprise:
a plurality of flexible ribs projecting inwardly from the internal sidewall of the well,
the ribs extending into the socket a sufficient distance to engage the appliance foot upon insertion into the well of the socket.

5. A base as claimed in claim 4, wherein the ribs are flexible and capable of deforming in response to engagement with the foot of the appliance upon insertion into the well of the socket.

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~~6. A base as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:~~

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one or more sockets defining open ended wells in the frame of the base for receipt of the feet of the appliance to be supported by the base,

the sockets having a plurality of flexible ribs projecting inwardly from the internal sidewall of the well,

the ribs extending into each socket a sufficient distance to engage an appliance foot upon insertion into the well of the socket,

the ribs capable of deforming in response to engagement with the foot of the appliance upon insertion into the well of the socket.

7. A base as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ribs in the one or more sockets are vertically positioned and project radially inward from the sidewall.

8. A base as claimed in claim 7, wherein the ribs are beveled at their upper edges adjacent the open end of the socket.

9. A base for shipping and supporting an appliance, comprising:

a frame having one or more side edges, each side edge adapted to extend along a side of an appliance,

the base having one or more sockets that form receptacles for receipt of the feet of the appliance;

a plurality of flexible ribs extending along the internal sidewall of the socket and projecting inwardly into the well of the socket, the ribs adapted to deform in response to the engagement with the foot of the appliance upon insertion into the socket.

10. A base as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ribs are beveled adjacent the upper edge of the socket to facilitate insertion of the foot of the appliance into the socket.

11. A base as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ribs are positioned axially within the well of the socket.

12. A base as claimed in claim 9, wherein the bottom edge of the ribs is separated from the bottom wall of the socket.

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13. A base as claimed in claim 9, wherein the relatively outer peripheral edge portions of at least one side of the frame is recessed relative to inner portions of the frame along the at least one side, the recess of the outer edge along the at least one side creating a gap between the base and adjacent portions of the appliance.

14. A base as claimed in claim 9, wherein the relatively outer peripheral edge of each of the sides of the frame is recessed relative to the inner portions of the base, creating a gap between the base and the adjacent portions of the appliance along each side thereof.

15. A base for shipping and supporting an appliance of the type having an internal structural frame and at least one outer skin panel portion attached thereto, the base comprising:

a frame having one or more side edges adapted to extend adjacent one or more sides of the structural frame portion or outer skin panel portion of the appliance;

the relatively outer peripheral edge portion of at least one side edge of the frame being recessed relative to inner portion of the base along the at least one side, the recess of the outer edge along the at least one side creating a gap between the base and adjacent frame or side panel portion of the appliance.

16. A base as claimed in claim 15, wherein the relatively outer peripheral edge of each of the sides of the frame is recessed relative to the inner portions thereof, creating a gap between the base and the adjacent portions of the appliance along each side thereof.

17. A base as claimed in claim 15 further comprising:

one or more sockets that form receptacles for receipt of the feet of the appliance, and

a plurality of flexible ribs extending along the internal sidewall of the socket and projecting inwardly into the well of the socket, the ribs adapted to

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deform in response to the engagement with the foot of the appliance upon insertion into the socket.

18. A base as claimed in claim 17, wherein the ribs are beveled adjacent the upper edge of the socket to facilitate insertion of the foot of the appliance into the socket.

19. A base as claimed in claim 17, wherein the ribs are positioned axially within the well of the socket.

20. A base as claimed in claim 17, wherein the bottom edges of the ribs are separated from the bottom wall of the socket.